

S.N. 10/743,200

RD-26,797-6

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of making extended linear reptating polymers comprising the steps of:

dissolving at least one poly-L-lysine salt in an aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution to form a polylysine/sodium bicarbonate solution;

cooling the polylysine/sodium ~~bicarbonate~~ bicarbonate solution to a temperature of about 0°C;

combining diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) and at least one acid acceptor in a dipolar aprotic solvent to form a second solution comprising DTPA anhydride, wherein an amount of DTPA is chosen such that a molar ratio of DTPA anhydride to lysine residues is greater than or equal to 6;

cooling the second solution to a temperature below about -35°C;

adding at least one alkylchloroformate to the second solution to form a mixture;

adding said mixture to the polylysine/sodium bicarbonate solution to form a second mixture; and

isolating a resulting DTPA substituted polymer from the second mixture.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein said aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution has a pH in the range of between about 8 and about ~~9-1/2~~ 9.5.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein said at least one acid acceptor comprises ~~triethylamine~~ triethylamine.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said dipolar aprotic solvent comprises acetonitrile.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said at least one alkyl chloroformate comprises isobutylchloroformate.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein said poly-L-lysine salt comprises poly-L-lysine ~~hydrobromide~~ hydrobromide.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said polylysine/sodium bicarbonate solution is cooled to at least -35°C.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said polylysine/sodium bicarbonate solution is cooled to about -43°C.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said polylysine/sodium bicarbonate solution is cooled to about -45°C.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein the step of adding the mixture to the polylysine/sodium bicarbonate solution is performed with said polylysine/sodium bicarbonate solution cooled to about 0°C.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein said aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution has a pH of about 9.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one acid acceptor comprises triethylamine.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said dipolar aprotic solvent comprises acetonitrile.

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Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one alkyl chloroformate comprises isobutylchloroformate.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said poly-L-lysine salt comprises poly-L-lysine hydrobromide.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said polylysine/sodium bicarbonate solution is cooled to at least -35°C.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said polylysine/sodium bicarbonate solution is cooled to about -43°C.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method of claim 15 wherein said polylysine/sodium bicarbonate bicarbonate solution is cooled to about -45°C.

Claim 23 (original): An extended linear reptating polymer prepared according to the process of claim 5.

Claim 24 (original): An extended linear reptating polymer prepared according to the process of claim 7.

Claim 25 (original): An extended linear reptating polymer prepared according to the process of claim 8.

Claim 26 (original): An extended linear reptating polymer prepared according to the process of claim 9.

Claim 27 (currently amended): An extended linear reptating polymer prepared according to the process of claim ~~10.4~~ 10.